

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 9-20 and 23 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 9-13 and 23, and objected to claims 14-20. By this Amendment, claims 10 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, and 23 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this Amendment, claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 6 on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,320,909, issued to Takabatake et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Takabatake. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of this claim.

By this Amendment, claim 9 has been incorporated to recite the features of previously presented claim 14, which the Examiner has found to be allowable if incorporated into the independent claim upon which it depends. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

In item 8 on pages 4-7 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 10-13 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takabatake in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,539, issued to Duruöz (hereinafter referred to as "Duruöz"). By this Amendment, claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of the remaining claims.

As previously discussed in this Amendment, claim 9 recites features that the Examiner has found to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, as claims 11-13 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11-13 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 23 of the present application, as amended, recites an MPEG video decoding method wherein said parameters of said picture data include a plurality of peculiar play back flags, said display control section determines the number of display fields by using a table showing a relation between each state of said plurality of peculiar play back flags and the number of the display fields.

The Examiner acknowledged that Takabatake does not disclose such features, but alleged that Duruozy discloses determining the number of display fields in accordance with a combination of states of the plurality of peculiar play back flags. However, in direct contrast to claim 23, Duruozy does not contemplate the use of a table showing a relation between each state of said plurality of peculiar play back flags and the number of the display fields. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 9 on page 7 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 14-20, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed in the previous sections of this Amendment, claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter previously presented in claim 14 (now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9, and claims 15-20, which depend from claim 9, patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 23 have been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 9, 11-13, 15-20, and 23 are pending and under consideration.

Serial No. 10/614,054

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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